

US20030359

Amendments to the Specification:

Upon review of the application following receipt of the Office Action mailed on August 31, 2004, Applicants noticed a typographical error that they believe led to the Examiner's comment that "a brief description of Figure 6 is missing." Applicants inadvertently placed the brief description of Figure 6 with the paragraph briefly describing Figure 5. Thus, the Brief Description of the Drawings section of the application should read as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation view of an automatic dishwasher of the built-in type according to the invention shown installed in a conventional household kitchen.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the automatic dishwasher of Figure 1 comprising a housing defining a wash chamber having a plurality of wall-mounted spray nozzles, a rotating water spray assembly, and a lower basket having a first embodiment of an adjustable utensil carrier according to the invention adapted for slidable movement into and out of the wash chamber.

Figure 3 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 and illustrating the adjustable utensil carrier pivotably mounted to the lower basket by a pair of hinge assemblies, and having a utensil carrier adjuster for pivoting the adjustable utensil carrier relative to the lower basket. A portion of the lower basket is removed for clarity.

Figure 4 is an exploded front view of the utensil carrier adjuster of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is an exploded rearview of the utensil carrier adjuster of Figure 3.

Figure 6 is an enlarged perspective view of the utensil carrier adjuster of Figure 3 shown in a first operable position.

Figure 7 is an enlarged perspective view of the utensil carrier adjuster of Figure 3

shown in a second operable position.

Figure 8 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating the utensil carrier adjuster in the second operable position to optimally position the adjustable utensil carrier for cleaning of a cooking utensil, the cooking utensil shown in phantom and a portion of the lower basket removed for purposes of clarity.

Figure 9 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating the utensil carrier adjuster in the first operable position to position the adjustable utensil carrier for receipt of a plate, the plate shown in phantom and a portion of the lower basket removed for purposes of clarity.

Figures 10A-D are side elevational views of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating the insertion of a cooking utensil into the adjustable utensil carrier and the pivoting of the adjustable utensil carrier relative to the lower basket through an engagement of the cooking utensil with the utensil carrier adjuster.

Figure 11 is an enlarged elevational view of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating the flow of wash liquid from the wall-mounted spray nozzles and the rotating water spray assembly against the cooking utensil.

Figures 12A-B are enlarged perspective views of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating a second embodiment of the adjustable utensil carrier in a first operable position and a second operable position, respectively, with a portion of the lower basket removed for clarity.

Figure 13A is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating a third embodiment of the adjustable utensil carrier comprising a lever arm assembly for moving the adjustable rack, with the adjustable utensil carrier shown in a first operable position.

Figure 13B is an enlarged perspective view similar to the view shown in Figure 13A

illustrating the third embodiment of the adjustable utensil carrier in a second operable position.

Figure 14 is an enlarged perspective view of an obverse side of the lever arm assembly shown in Figure 13A, with the lever arm assembly mounted to the lower basket and the adjustable utensil carrier.

Figure 15 is an enlarged perspective view of a reverse side of the lever arm assembly shown in Figure 14.

Figure 16 is a perspective sectional view of the lever arm assembly shown in Figure 15 taken along line 16-16.

Figure 17A is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating a fourth embodiment of the adjustable utensil carrier comprising a tine lock assembly for positioning the adjustable utensil carrier, with the adjustable utensil carrier shown in a first operable position.

Figure 17B is an enlarged perspective view similar to the view shown in Figure 17A illustrating the fourth embodiment of the adjustable utensil carrier in a second operable position.

Figure 18 is an enlarged perspective view of an obverse side of the tine lock assembly shown in Figure 17A, with the tine lock assembly mounted to the lower basket and the adjustable utensil carrier.

Figure 19 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the lower basket of Figure 2 illustrating a fifth embodiment of the adjustable utensil carrier comprising a removable rack having positioning tines in an operable position for optimally positioning the cooking utensil.

Additionally, please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph [0049]:

[0049] As shown in Figure 9, with the utensil basket 62 in the first position, the lower basket 36 can be loaded with dinnerware, such as plates 100, glasses, platters, and the like, without interference from the utensil basket 62. As shown in Figures 10A-D, large cooking pans 102 can be placed in the lower basket 36 and automatically oriented in the optimal positioned position relative to the zone wash spray jets 28 and the rotating water spray assembly 34 through the action of the adjustable utensil carrier 50. As shown in Figure 10A, as the pan 102 is inserted into the utensil basket 62, it will engage the actuator lever 72. As shown in Figure 10B, as the pan 102 is lowered into the utensil basket 62, it will urge the actuator lever 72 downwardly, pivoting the utensil carrier actuator 70 about the pivot 74. This will urge the cams 76 upwardly along the vertical members 46. As shown in Figure 10C, further lowering of the pan 102 into the utensil basket 62 will further urge the cams 76 upwardly along the vertical members 46, thereby pivoting the utensil basket 62 away from the lower basket 36. As shown in Figure 10D, with the pan of 102 fully inserted into the utensil basket 62, the utensil basket 62 will be fully pivoted away from the lower basket 36, thereby placing the pan 102 in the optimal orientation relative to the zone wash spray jets 28 and the rotating water spray assembly 34 for cleaning.

Furthermore, please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph [0054]:

[0054] The adjustable utensil carrier also eliminates the need to carefully position and balance large utensils against the vertically extending tines in the dishrack, and the potential that the utensil will shift out of the optimal cleaning position during washing. The adjustable utensil carrier also eliminates the problem that arises when a utensil is too tall for the vertically extending tines in the dishrack to maintain the utensil in the optimal position throughout the wash cycle, ~~or when the utensils a side wall that is too tall to fit between~~

~~adjacent rows of tines, thereby preventing such a dish from being positioned at an angle relative to the vertical or in a vertical position.~~ When the adjustable utensil carrier is not needed, it can be readily positioned or removed so that tableware and other utensils can be loaded into the dishwasher without interference from the adjustable utensil carrier. Finally, the adjustable utensil carrier is simple in design and operation, economical to produce, and can readily be retrofit to an existing dishwasher rack. Figures ~~112A-B~~ 12A-B illustrate a second embodiment of the invention comprising an adjustable utensil carrier 110 having a generally wire-frame construction comprising a plurality of rigidly interconnected cross members 112 and vertical members 114 in generally rectilinear orientation to form a support wall. Each vertical member 114 transitions generally orthogonally to a floor wire 116 to form, with the cross members 112, a floor latticework. The adjustable utensil carrier 110 is provided with the utensil carrier actuator 70. The resulting adjustable utensil carrier 110 is similar to the adjustable utensil carrier 50 except for the omission of positioning tines. The omission of the positioning tines in the adjustable utensil carrier 110 enables a greater range of pan sizes to be supported in the utensil carrier 110 unaffected by the tine spacing, and further reduces the potential interference of the adjustable utensil carrier with the loading of tableware and other utensils into the lower basket 36 which do not require placement in the adjustable utensil carrier. The operation of the adjustable utensil carrier 110 with the utensil carrier actuator 70 is identical in every respect to the operation of the adjustable utensil carrier 50.